

David F. Smith, Esquire  
IMTFE - GHQ - SCAP  
AFO 500  
c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Cal.

(In long hand)

Oct. 10th, 1947  
47 Avenue del'Armee  
Brussels.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of Sept. 29th.

I am very sorry to hear my affidavit in favor of Mr. Hirota cannot be used in his defense.

In spite of my efforts I cannot remember any precise facts which I could mention to prove that my firm belief in Mr. Hirota's innocence of war guilt must necessarily be shared by the court. Ten years have elapsed since I was in contact with Mr. Hirota and I have no clear recollection of any precise act or speech of his which could be cited as a direct proof.

My conviction is based upon the remembrance of numberless conversations with Mr. Hirota himself or other Japanese leaders. As a result of them, I have the firm belief that Mr. Hirota, as I stated in my affidavit, always used his real influence with the military leaders to restrain them to the best of his ability. I am convinced this was the case at any rate until the moment I left Japan in 1939. Mr. Hirota was, and is, much too clever ever to have shared the illusions of the military clique or to have favored their absurd designs. To thwart these he was probably powerless to do more than he actually did. It is my conviction but I cannot prove it by any precise facts.

I sincerely hope this declaration may be useful to him. Please give him my friendly regards and believe me

Sincerely yours,

Bassompierre

P. S. On Dec. 15th, 1934, I presented Mr. Hirota with the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold, the highest decoration of my country, which our King had bestowed on Mr. Hirota, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon my proposal. This is proof of the very high esteem in which I held Mr. Hirota.

Bassompierre

2

カリフォルニア州サンフランシスコ郵便局長氣付  
連合軍最高司令部總司令部

極東國際軍事裁判所 A P O 五〇五  
デイヴィド・F・スマス殿

ヘベン書にて

一九四七年十月十日 ブラッセルス、デラメー通四七番地

拜啓九月二十九日付御手紙入手致しました。廣田氏を辯護した私の口供書が、法廷で使用出来ない由、誠に歎念に思ひます。廣田氏が戦争に無罪であるといふ私の確信が、必ず法廷で認められねばならないと言ふ事を證明し得るやうな正確な事實を私は努力してみました。廣田氏が戰争に無出來ません。私が廣田氏と交際してゐた頃より既に十年が経過して居り直接な證據として引用できやうな彼の正確な行爲或は談話をはつきりと記憶してゐないのです。私の右の確信は、廣田氏自身、及び他の日本の指導者達との數多の會話の記憶に基づくものです。それらの結果として、私の口供書にも述べました様に、私は、彼が能ふ限り軍指導者達の抑制に常に努力したと堅く信じる者であります。

少くともこれは一九三九年に私が日本を去る折までの、眞相であると確信します。廣田氏は軍閥の幻想に惑はされたり又は彼らの愚なる企圖に